

Kentucky

In the late 1700's settlers began streaming into the western part of the Virginia Territory that came to be the state of Kentucky in 1792. The surnames of my ancestors who lived in Kentucky in those early years are Thomas, Brent, Edwards and Gregg.

Thomas:

The Phineas Thomas family had originally settled near the Old Redstone Fort in western Pennsylvania when they emigrated from Wales. The stories say my 6th great grandparents (6x) Phineas and Elizabeth took their family to Kentucky in about 1774 after they heard great tales of the land available there. The Thomas family was one of the earliest to attempt to settle in Kentucky, but the white settlers were constantly in danger and the Thomas family moved back to Pennsylvania during a lull in the Indian attacks. It is believed that 6x Phineas Thomas died in Pennsylvania.

6x Elizabeth and her family returned to Kentucky. They probably loaded their possessions on a flat boat and went down the Ohio River and stopped at the village of Maysville, in Mason County Kentucky on the east shore of the Ohio River. They settled near Flemingsburg in Mason County. Later they moved farther south to an area known as Salt Lick, which is about 50 miles south of Maysville. It isn't clear when they settled near Salt Lick, but the Thomas' are shown on the 1790 Kentucky tax rolls.

The eldest son, 5x Ephraim Thomas had been born in Wales and was in his mid-20's when he left Pennsylvania for Kentucky. He may have married Elizabeth in Pennsylvania and their first child, David, may have been born in Pennsylvania as well.

The next eldest son, Phineas, married Hannah McComas in Kentucky in 1798 and they moved to Clermont County, Ohio in 1810. The other three sons, James, John and Levi in between the ages of 15 and 20 when they arrived in Kentucky. It isn't clear what happened to the three younger sons, but one was killed by the Indians and one was taken prisoner and tied to the ground. He eventually escaped but died from cold soon after getting back home. The fate of the third son is unknown. The eldest son, 5x Ephraim, raised a family noted for 'fiting and drinking'.

5x Ephraim's eldest son, David, grew up in Kentucky at married Margaret Brent in Fayette County, Kentucky on December 27, 1803. They were both 17 years old and had their parent's permission. The record of the marriage has survived. Phineas Thomas, David's uncle, born in 1771, was listed as the witness. David's parents were listed as Ephraim and Elizabeth Thomas. The other household members included William Brent, Margaret's father. The Thomas family was living near Salt Lick, Mason County, Kentucky.

4x David and Margaret's first child, Ephraim Balem Thomas was born in Mason County in about 1805. At some point, the family moved to near Covington, Kentucky where Ephraim Balem Thomas met his future wife Sarah Edwards. They were married on July 22, 1824 in Rush County, Indiana. It isn't clear when they moved back to Kentucky but their first child, Solomon Scott Thomas was born in or near Covington, Campbell

County, Kentucky on February 26, 1826. Solomon would be the 4th generation of Thomas' to live in Kentucky. His years there were few as his parents moved back to Indiana when Solomon was about 4 years old.

Brent:

5x William Brent settled near the area of Salt Lick, Mason County, Kentucky. He may have arrived with his wife and family, but little is known about them. In fact, I only know that William had a daughter, Margaret who claimed to have been born in Virginia about 1786 and that she was married to David Thomas in Fayette County, Kentucky in 1803.

Perhaps 5x William had served in the Revolutionary War and had been granted land for his service to his country and chose Mason County Kentucky. Or perhaps he was one of the early settlers in Kentucky and were neighbors of the Thomas family.

4x Margaret Brent did marry 4x David Thomas and Margaret's first child, Ephraim Balem Thomas, was born on October 16, 1805 in Mason County, Kentucky.

Edwards:

5x Dr. Uriah Edwards moved to Fayette County, Kentucky from South Carolina in 1784 with his wife Sarah and 3-year-old son Uriah after the close of the war, in company with a party of settlers led by Colonel Alexander McHatten. The area was Woodford County,



Kentucky and part of the county became Scott County when Kentucky became a state in 1792. Scott County is in the north central part of Kentucky, just north of Lexington.

5x Dr. Edwards died about 1790 and is most likely buried in Woodford/Scott County, Kentucky. Young Uriah Edwards was only 9 years old at the time of his father's death but began to learn the wheelwright trade to help support his mother and three siblings. He learned to make wheels used to spin and weave cloth and moved his mother and siblings north to Campbell County Kentucky and settled in the neighborhood of Newport, Kentucky.

4x Uriah B Edwards matured in the neighborhood of Newport, Kentucky and met Nancy Gregg, daughter of 5x Mathew and Nancy Gibson Gregg and they were married in Campbell County, Kentucky on June 30, 1803. They had 8 Kentucky-born children and about 1822, 4x Uriah and Nancy Gregg Edwards and their family moved from Campbell County, Kentucky to Rush County, Indiana.

Gregg:

5x Mathew Gregg fought in the American Revolution serving in the 10th Virginia Regiment from October 1776 to December 1779. He moved to Kentucky in about 1784 with his wife Nancy and their first four children and owned land in Campbell County. He applied for a war pension in 1818 in Campbell County.

In October of 1827 5x Mathew and Nancy Gregg moved to Indiana to be near their children who had moved there.

There are many graves in Kentucky for these pioneer families although the records of the whereabouts of those graves are mostly non-existent. Some of those who are probably buried in Kentucky are:

6x Elizabeth Thomas, born in Wales, died in Kentucky.
Her sons, John, Levi and James.

5x William Brent and his wife may be buried there.

5x Dr. Uriah Edwards is buried in Kentucky and possibly his wife Sarah.

Other family members that stayed on and died there.

And countless children that did not reach adulthood.